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House Engrossed

State of Arizona House of Representatives Forty-sixth Legislature First Regular Session 2003

HOUSE BILL 2349

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 38-783, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 38, CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE 2, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 38-783.01; AMENDING SECTION 38-817, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 38, CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE 3, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 38-817.01; AMENDING SECTION 38-857, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 38, CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE 4, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 38-857.01; AMENDING SECTION 38-906, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 38, CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE 6, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 38-906.01; RELATING TO PUBLIC RETIREES' HEALTH INSURANCE SUBSIDIES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona: Section 1. Section 38-783, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

38-783. Retired members; dependents; health insurance; premium payment; separate account; definitions

- A. Subject to subsection J of this section, the board shall pay from ASRS assets part of the single coverage premium of any health and accident insurance for each retired or disabled member of ASRS if the member elects to participate in the coverage provided by ASRS or section 38-651.01 or elects to participate in a health and accident insurance program provided or administered by an employer or paid for, in whole or in part, by an employer to an insurer. The board shall pay:
- 1. Up to one hundred fifty dollars per month for a retired or disabled member of ASRS who is not eligible for medicare and who has ten or more years of credited service.
- 2. Up to one hundred dollars per month for each retired or disabled member of ASRS who is eligible for medicare and who has ten or more years of credited service.
- B. Subject to subsection J of this section, the board shall pay from ASRS assets part of the family coverage premium of any health and accident insurance for a retired or disabled member of ASRS who elects family coverage and who otherwise qualifies for payment pursuant to subsection A of this section. Payment under this subsection is in the following amounts:
- 1. Up to two hundred sixty dollars per month if the retired or disabled member of ASRS and one or more dependents are not eligible for medicare.
- 2. Up to one hundred seventy dollars per month if the retired or disabled member of ASRS and one or more dependents are eligible for medicare.
 - 3. Up to two hundred fifteen dollars per month if either:
- (a) The retired or disabled member of ASRS is not eligible for medicare and one or more dependents are eligible for medicare.
- (b) The retired or disabled member of ASRS is eligible for medicare and one or more dependents are not eligible for medicare.
- C. In addition each retired or disabled member of ASRS with less than ten years of credited service and a dependent of such a retired or disabled member who elects to participate in the coverage provided by ASRS or section 38-651.01 or who elects to participate in a health and accident INSURANCE program provided or administered by an employer or paid for, in whole or in part, by an employer to an insurer is entitled to receive a proportion of the full benefit prescribed by subsection A, or B, E OR F of this section according to the following schedule:
 - 1. 9.0 to 9.9 years of credited service, ninety per cent.
 - 2. 8.0 to 8.9 years of credited service, eighty per cent.
 - 3. 7.0 to 7.9 years of credited service, seventy per cent.
 - 4. 6.0 to 6.9 years of credited service, sixty per cent.

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- 5. 5.0 to 5.9 years of credited service, fifty per cent.
- 6. Those with less than five years of credited service do not qualify for the benefit.
- D. The board shall not pay more than the amount prescribed in this section for a retired or disabled member of ASRS.
- E. IN ADDITION TO THE PAYMENTS PROVIDED BY SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION, through June 30, 2003, the board shall pay an insurance premium benefit for each retired or disabled member of ASRS who is eligible for a premium benefit payment pursuant to subsection A of this section and who lives in a nonservice area as follows:
- 1. Up to three hundred dollars per month for a retired or disabled member of ASRS who is not eligible for medicare and who has ten or more years of credited service.
- 2. Up to one hundred seventy dollars per month for a retired or disabled member of ASRS who is eligible for medicare and who has ten or more years of credited service.
- F. IN ADDITION TO THE PAYMENTS PROVIDED BY SUBSECTION B OF THIS SECTION, through June 30, 2003, the board shall pay from ASRS assets part of the family coverage premium of any group health and accident insurance coverage for a retired or disabled member of ASRS who is eligible for a premium benefit payment pursuant to subsection B of this section and who lives in a nonservice area as follows:
- 1. Up to six hundred dollars per month if the retired or disabled member of ASRS and one or more dependents are not eligible for medicare AND THE RETIRED OR DISABLED MEMBER OF ASRS HAS TEN OR MORE YEARS OF CREDITED SERVICE.
- 2. Up to three hundred fifty dollars per month if the retired or disabled member of ASRS and one or more dependents are eligible for medicare AND THE RETIRED OR DISABLED MEMBER OF ASRS HAS TEN OR MORE YEARS OF CREDITED SERVICE.
- 3. IF THE RETIRED OR DISABLED MEMBER OF ASRS HAS TEN OR MORE YEARS OF CREDITED SERVICE, up to four hundred seventy dollars per month if either:
- (a) The retired or disabled member of ASRS is not eligible for medicare and one or more dependents are eligible for medicare.
- (b) The retired or disabled member of ASRS is eligible for medicare and one or more dependents are not eligible for medicare.
- G. A retired or disabled member of ASRS who is enrolled in a managed care program in a nonservice area is not eligible for the payment prescribed in subsection E or F of this section if the member terminates coverage under the managed care program.
- H. Through June 30, 2003, A retired or disabled member of ASRS may elect to purchase individual health care coverage and receive a payment pursuant to this section through the retired or disabled member's employer if that employer assumes the administrative functions associated with the

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payment, including verification that the payment is used to pay for health insurance coverage if the payment is made to the retired or disabled member.

- I. The board shall establish a separate account that consists of the benefits provided by this section. The board shall not use or divert any part of the corpus or income of the account for any purpose other than the provision of benefits under this section unless the liabilities of ASRS to provide the benefits are satisfied. If the liabilities of ASRS to provide the benefits described in this section are satisfied, the board shall return any amount remaining in the account to the employer.
- J. Payment of the benefits provided by this section is subject to the following conditions:
- 1. The payment of the benefits is subordinate to the payment of retirement benefits payable by ASRS.
- 2. The total of contributions for the benefits and actual contributions for life insurance protection, if any, shall not exceed twenty-five per cent of the total actual employer and employee contributions to ASRS, less contributions to fund past service credits, after the day the account is established.
- 3. The board shall deposit the benefits provided by this section in the account.
- 4. The contributions by the employer to the account shall be reasonable and ascertainable.
 - K. For the purposes of this section:
- 1. "Account" means the separate account established pursuant to subsection I of this section.
 - 2. "Credited service" includes prior service.
- 3. "Nonservice area" means an area in this state in which ASRS pursuant to section 38-782, the department of administration pursuant to section 38-651.01 or any employer does not provide or administer a health care services organization program, excluding any preferred provider organization program or individual health indemnity policy, for which the retired or disabled member of ASRS is eligible.
- 4. "Prior service" means service for this state or a political subdivision of this state before membership in the defined contribution program administered by ASRS.
- Sec. 2. Title 38, chapter 5, article 2, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended by adding section 38-783.01, to read:

 $\frac{\text{38-783.01.}}{\text{active health insurance plan}} \frac{\text{Retired member or survivor; enrollment in employer's}}{\text{active health insurance plan}}$

AN EMPLOYER SHALL ALLOW A RETIRED MEMBER OF ASRS WHO WAS EMPLOYED BY THAT EMPLOYER AT RETIREMENT OR A SURVIVOR OF A MEMBER WHO WAS EMPLOYED BY THAT EMPLOYER AT RETIREMENT AND WHO IS RECEIVING A RETIREMENT BENEFIT PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EMPLOYER'S HEALTH CARE INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR ACTIVE EMPLOYEES OF THAT EMPLOYER AT THE SAME GROSS PREMIUM RATES AS PROVIDED FOR THE ACTIVE EMPLOYEES OF THAT EMPLOYER. THIS

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SECTION DOES NOT REQUIRE THE EMPLOYER TO PROVIDE ANY PAYMENT TO OFFSET THE COST OF THE HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM FOR THE RETIRED MEMBER OR SURVIVOR.

Sec. 3. Section 38-817, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 38-817. Group health and accident coverage for retired members; payment; definition

- A. The fund manager shall pay from the assets of the fund part of the single coverage premium of any group health and accident insurance for each retired member or survivor of the elected officials' retirement plan who receives a pension if the retired member had eight or more years of credited service under the plan. In order to qualify for payment pursuant to this subsection, the retired member or survivor shall elect single coverage and must have elected to participate in the coverage provided in section 38-651.01 or 38-782 or any other health and accident insurance coverage provided or administered by a participating employer of the elected officials' retirement plan. The fund manager shall pay up to:
- 1. One hundred fifty dollars per month for each retired member or survivor of the plan who is not eligible for medicare.
- 2. One hundred dollars per month for each retired member or survivor of the plan who is eligible for medicare.
- B. The fund manager shall pay from the assets of the fund part of the family coverage premium of any group health and accident insurance each month for a benefit recipient who elects family coverage and who otherwise qualifies for payment pursuant to subsection A of this section. The fund manager shall pay up to:
- 1. Two hundred sixty dollars per month if the retired member or survivor of the plan and one or more dependents are not eligible for medicare.
- 2. One hundred seventy dollars per month if the retired member or survivor of the plan and one or more dependents are eligible for medicare.
 - 3. Two hundred fifteen dollars per month if either:
- (a) The retired member or survivor of the plan is not eligible for medicare and one or more dependents are eligible for medicare.
- (b) The retired member or survivor of the plan is eligible for medicare and one or more dependents are not eligible for medicare.
- C. Each retired member or survivor of the plan with less than eight years of credited service and a dependent of such a retired member or survivor who participates in the coverage provided by section 38-651.01 or 38-782 or who participates in any other health and accident insurance coverage provided or administered by a participating employer of the plan is entitled to receive a proportion of the full benefit prescribed by subsection A, or B, E OR F of this section according to the following schedule:
 - 1. 7.0 to 7.9 years of credited service, ninety per cent.
 - 2. 6.0 to 6.9 years of credited service, seventy-five per cent.
 - 3. 5.0 to 5.9 years of credited service, sixty per cent.

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- 4. Those with less than five years of credited service do not qualify for the benefit.
- D. The fund manager shall not pay more than the amount prescribed in this section for a benefit recipient as a member or survivor of the plan.
- E. IN ADDITION TO THE PAYMENTS PROVIDED BY SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION, through June 30, 2003, the fund manager shall pay an insurance premium benefit for each retired member or survivor of the plan who is entitled to a premium benefit payment pursuant to subsection A of this section and who lives in a nonservice area as follows:
- 1. Up to three hundred dollars per month for a retired member or survivor of the plan who is not eligible for medicare and who has eight or more years of credited service.
- 2. Up to one hundred seventy dollars per month for a retired member or survivor of the plan who is eligible for medicare and who has eight or more years of credited service.
- F. IN ADDITION TO THE PAYMENTS PROVIDED BY SUBSECTION B OF THIS SECTION, through June 30, 2003, the fund manager shall pay an insurance premium benefit for a retired member or survivor of the plan who is entitled to a premium benefit payment pursuant to subsection B of this section and who lives in a nonservice area as follows:
- 1. Up to six hundred dollars per month if the retired member or survivor of the plan and one or more dependents are not eligible for medicare AND THE RETIRED MEMBER OR SURVIVOR OF THE PLAN HAS EIGHT OR MORE YEARS OF CREDITED SERVICE.
- 2. Up to three hundred fifty dollars per month if the retired member or survivor of the plan and one or more dependents are eligible for medicare AND THE RETIRED MEMBER OR SURVIVOR OF THE PLAN HAS EIGHT OR MORE YEARS OF CREDITED SERVICE.
- 3. IF THE RETIRED MEMBER OR SURVIVOR OF THE PLAN HAS EIGHT OR MORE YEARS OF CREDITED SERVICE, up to four hundred seventy dollars per month if either:
- (a) The retired member or survivor of the plan is not eligible for medicare and one or more dependents are eligible for medicare.
- (b) The retired member or survivor of the plan is eligible for medicare and one or more dependents are not eligible for medicare.
- G. A retired member or survivor of the plan who is enrolled in a managed care program in a nonservice area is not eligible for the payment prescribed in subsection E or F of this section if the member terminates coverage under the managed care program.
- H. Through June 30, 2003, A retired member or survivor of the plan may elect to purchase individual health care coverage and receive a payment pursuant to this section through the retired member's employer if that employer assumes the administrative functions associated with the payment, including verification that the payment is used to pay for health insurance

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coverage if the payment is made to the retired member or survivor of the plan.

I. For the purposes of this section, "nonservice area" means an area in this state in which the Arizona state retirement system pursuant to section 38-782, the department of administration pursuant to section 38-651.01 or the member's or survivor's participating employer does not provide or administer a health care services organization program, excluding any preferred provider organization program or individual health indemnity policy, for which the retired member or survivor of the plan is eligible.

Sec. 4. Title 38, chapter 5, article 3, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended by adding section 38-817.01, to read:

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38-817.01. Retired member or survivor; enrollment in employer's active health insurance plan
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AN EMPLOYER SHALL ALLOW A RETIRED MEMBER OF THE PLAN WHO WAS EMPLOYED BY THAT EMPLOYER AT RETIREMENT OR A SURVIVOR OF A MEMBER WHO WAS EMPLOYED BY THAT EMPLOYER AT RETIREMENT AND WHO IS RECEIVING A PENSION PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EMPLOYER'S HEALTH CARE INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR ACTIVE EMPLOYEES OF THAT EMPLOYER AT THE SAME GROSS PREMIUM RATES AS PROVIDED FOR THE ACTIVE EMPLOYEES OF THAT EMPLOYER. THIS SECTION DOES NOT REQUIRE THE EMPLOYER TO PROVIDE ANY PAYMENT TO OFFSET THE COST OF THE HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM FOR THE RETIRED MEMBER OR SURVIVOR.

Sec. 5. Section 38-857, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 38-857. Group health and accident coverage for retired members; payment; definition

- A. The fund manager of the public safety personnel retirement system shall pay part of the single coverage premium of any group health and accident insurance for each retired member or survivor of the system who receives a pension and who has elected to participate in the coverage provided by section 38-651.01 or 38-782 or any other health and accident insurance coverage provided or administered by a participating employer of the system. The fund manager shall pay up to:
- 1. One hundred fifty dollars per month for each retired member or survivor of the system who is not eligible for medicare.
- 2. One hundred dollars per month for each retired member or survivor of the system who is eligible for medicare.
- B. The fund manager of the system shall pay from assets of the fund part of the family coverage premium of any group health and accident insurance each month for a benefit recipient who elects family coverage and otherwise qualifies for payment pursuant to subsection A of this section. The fund manager shall pay up to:
- 1. Two hundred sixty dollars per month if the retired member or survivor of the system and one or more dependents are not eligible for medicare.
- 2. One hundred seventy dollars per month if the retired member or survivor of the system and one or more dependents are eligible for medicare.

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- 3. Two hundred fifteen dollars per month if either:
- (a) The retired member or survivor of the system is not eligible for medicare and one or more dependents are eligible for medicare.
- (b) The retired member or survivor of the system is eligible for medicare and one or more dependents are not eligible for medicare.
- C. The fund manager shall not pay from assets of the fund more than the amount prescribed in this section for a benefit recipient as a member or survivor of the system.
- D. This section does not apply to a retired member or survivor of the system who is reemployed by this state or a political subdivision of this state and who participates in coverage provided by this state or a political subdivision of this state as an active employee.
- E. IN ADDITION TO THE PAYMENTS PROVIDED BY SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION, through June 30, 2003, the fund manager shall pay an insurance premium benefit for each retired member or survivor of the system who is entitled to a premium benefit payment pursuant to subsection A of this section and who lives in a nonservice area as follows:
- 1. Up to three hundred dollars per month for a retired member or survivor of the system who is not eligible for medicare.
- 2. Up to one hundred seventy dollars per month for a retired member or survivor of the system who is eligible for medicare.
- F. IN ADDITION TO THE PAYMENTS PROVIDED BY SUBSECTION B OF THIS SECTION, through June 30, 2003, the fund manager shall pay an insurance premium benefit for a retired member or survivor of the system who is entitled to a premium benefit payment pursuant to subsection B of this section and who lives in a nonservice area as follows:
- 1. Up to six hundred dollars per month if the retired member or survivor of the system and one or more dependents are not eligible for medicare.
- 2. Up to three hundred fifty dollars per month if the retired member or survivor of the system and one or more dependents are eligible for medicare.
 - 3. Up to four hundred seventy dollars per month if either:
- (a) The retired member or survivor of the system is not eligible for medicare and one or more dependents are eligible for medicare.
- (b) The retired member or survivor of the system is eligible for medicare and one or more dependents are not eligible for medicare.
- G. A retired member or survivor of the system who is enrolled in a managed care program in a nonservice area is not eligible for the payment prescribed in subsection E or F of this section if the member terminates coverage under the managed care program.
- H. Through June 30, 2003, A retired member or survivor of the system may elect to purchase individual health care coverage and receive a payment pursuant to this section through the retired member's employer if that employer assumes the administrative functions associated with the payment,

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including verification that the payment is used to pay for health insurance coverage if the payment is made to the retired member or survivor of the system.

I. For the purposes of this section, "nonservice area" means an area in this state in which the Arizona state retirement system pursuant to section 38-782, the department of administration pursuant to section 38-651.01 or the member's or survivor's participating employer does not provide or administer a health care services organization program, excluding any preferred provider organization program or individual health indemnity policy, for which the retired member or survivor of the system is eligible.

Sec. 6. Title 38, chapter 5, article 4, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended by adding section 38-857.01, to read:

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38-857.01. Retired member or survivor; enrollment in employer's active health insurance plan
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AN EMPLOYER SHALL ALLOW A RETIRED MEMBER OF THE SYSTEM WHO WAS EMPLOYED BY THAT EMPLOYER AT RETIREMENT OR A SURVIVOR OF A MEMBER WHO WAS EMPLOYED BY THAT EMPLOYER AT RETIREMENT AND WHO IS RECEIVING A PENSION PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EMPLOYER'S HEALTH CARE INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR ACTIVE EMPLOYEES OF THAT EMPLOYER AT THE SAME GROSS PREMIUM RATES AS PROVIDED FOR THE ACTIVE EMPLOYEES OF THAT EMPLOYER. THIS SECTION DOES NOT REQUIRE THE EMPLOYER TO PROVIDE ANY PAYMENT TO OFFSET THE COST OF THE HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM FOR THE RETIRED MEMBER OR SURVIVOR.

Sec. 7. Section 38-906, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 38-906. Group health and accident coverage for retired members; payment; definition

- A. The fund manager shall pay from the assets of the fund part of the single coverage premium of any group health and accident insurance for each retired member or survivor of the plan who receives a pension and who has elected to participate in coverage provided by section 38-651.01 or 38-782 or any other health and accident insurance coverage provided or administered by a participating employer in the plan. The fund manager shall pay up to:
- 1. One hundred fifty dollars per month for each retired member or survivor of the plan who is not eligible for medicare.
- 2. One hundred dollars per month for each retired member or survivor of the plan who is eligible for medicare.
- B. The fund manager shall pay from the assets of the fund part of the family coverage premium of any group health and accident insurance for each retired member or survivor of the plan who elects family coverage and who otherwise qualifies for payment pursuant to subsection A of this section. Payment under this subsection is in the following amounts:
- 1. Up to two hundred sixty dollars per month if the retired member or survivor of the plan and one or more dependents are not eligible for medicare.
- 2. Up to one hundred seventy dollars per month if the retired member or survivor of the plan and one or more dependents are eligible for medicare.

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- 3. Up to two hundred fifteen dollars if either:
- (a) The retired member or survivor of the plan is not eligible for medicare and one or more dependents are eligible for medicare.
- (b) The retired member or survivor of the plan is eligible for medicare and one or more dependents are not eligible for medicare.
- C. The fund manager shall not pay more than the amount prescribed in this section for a benefit recipient as a member or survivor of the plan.
- D. IN ADDITION TO THE PAYMENTS PROVIDED BY SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION, through June 30, 2003, the fund manager shall pay an insurance premium benefit for each retired member or survivor of the plan who is entitled to a premium benefit payment pursuant to subsection A of this section and who lives in a nonservice area as follows:
- 1. Up to three hundred dollars per month for a retired member or survivor of the plan who is not eligible for medicare.
- 2. Up to one hundred seventy dollars per month for a retired member or survivor of the plan who is eligible for medicare.
- E. IN ADDITION TO THE PAYMENTS PROVIDED BY SUBSECTION B OF THIS SECTION, through June 30, 2003, the fund manager shall pay an insurance premium benefit for a retired member or survivor of the plan who is entitled to a premium benefit payment pursuant to subsection B of this section and who lives in a nonservice area as follows:
- 1. Up to six hundred dollars per month if the retired member or survivor of the plan and one or more dependents are not eligible for medicare.
- 2. Up to three hundred fifty dollars per month if the retired member or survivor of the plan and one or more dependents are eligible for medicare.
 - 3. Up to four hundred seventy dollars per month if either:
- (a) The retired member or survivor of the plan is not eligible for medicare and one or more dependents are eligible for medicare.
- (b) The retired member or survivor of the plan is eligible for medicare and one or more dependents are not eligible for medicare.
- F. A retired member or survivor of the plan who is enrolled in a managed care program in a nonservice area is not eligible for the payment prescribed in subsection D or E of this section if the member terminates coverage under the managed care program.
- G. Through June 30, 2003, A retired member or survivor of the plan may elect to purchase individual health care coverage and receive a payment pursuant to this section through the retired member's employer if that employer assumes the administrative functions associated with the payment, including verification that the payment is used to pay for health insurance coverage if the payment is made to the retired member or survivor of the plan.
- H. For the purposes of this section, "nonservice area" means an area in this state in which the Arizona state retirement system pursuant to section 38-782, the department of administration pursuant to section

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38-651.01 or the member's or survivor's participating employer does not provide or administer a health care services organization program, excluding any preferred provider organization program or individual health indemnity policy, for which the retired member or survivor of the plan is eligible.

Sec. 8. Title 38, chapter 5, article 6, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended by adding section 38-906.01, to read:

38-906.01. Retired member or survivor; enrollment in employer's active health insurance plan

AN EMPLOYER SHALL ALLOW A RETIRED MEMBER OF THE PLAN WHO WAS EMPLOYED BY THAT EMPLOYER AT RETIREMENT OR A SURVIVOR OF A MEMBER WHO WAS EMPLOYED BY THAT EMPLOYER AT RETIREMENT AND WHO IS RECEIVING A PENSION PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EMPLOYER'S HEALTH CARE INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR ACTIVE EMPLOYEES OF THAT EMPLOYER AT THE SAME GROSS PREMIUM RATES AS PROVIDED FOR THE ACTIVE EMPLOYEES OF THAT EMPLOYER. THIS SECTION DOES NOT REQUIRE THE EMPLOYER TO PROVIDE ANY PAYMENT TO OFFSET THE COST OF THE HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM FOR THE RETIRED MEMBER OR SURVIVOR.

Sec. 9. Election to participate in employer's health insurance plan for certain existing retirees or survivors

- A. This section applies to any retired member or survivor of a retired member of the Arizona state retirement system, the elected officials' retirement plan, the public safety personnel retirement system or the corrections officer retirement plan who at the time of retirement or eligibility as a survivor was not given the option of participating in the active employee health insurance plan of the retired member's employer.
- B. An employer shall allow a current retired member or a current survivor who meets the requirements of subsection A as of the effective date of this act to participate in that employer's health care insurance program for active employees of that employer at the same gross premium rates as provided for the active employees of that employer. In order to qualify pursuant to this section, the retired member or survivor shall make an election, in writing, before December 31, 2003. The effective date of participation in such an insurance program shall be no later than January 1, 2004.
- C. This section does not require the employer to provide any payment to offset the cost of the health insurance premium for the retired member or survivor.

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